



November 13, 2008

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: **WRITTEN EX PARTE PRESENTATION**
RM-11271
ET Docket Nos. 06-135, 05-213, 03-92

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Hearing Industries Association (“HIA”)¹ hereby supports efforts to permit the deployment of wireless hearing aids in additional spectrum bands, such as the upper portion (405-406 MHz) of the proposed Medical Device Radio Communication Service (“MEDS”).² Wireless capability is a critical component of hearing aid evolution because it enables hearing aids to restore certain hearing functions that traditional hearing aids cannot replicate, such as directional perception of sound for dual hearing aid users and sound relay, for users with one impaired ear. The ability to incorporate wireless functionality into hearing aids exists today and we urge the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) to make additional spectrum available for this purpose without delay.

HIA notes that the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (“ETSI”) is actively considering wireless hearing aid deployment in the 405-406 MHz band. A draft technical report (TR V1.1.1_0.0.2 - 2008-06) was presented that outlines such operation, where wireless hearing aids would be permitted to communicate over one 300 KHz channel with a maximum ERP of 25 microwatts if Listen-Before-Talk (“LBT”) is utilized. HIA supports Commission adoption of rules that are consistent with this proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carole M. Rogin", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Carole M. Rogin

¹ HIA is the national trade association of the manufacturers of hearing aids, components, and related hearing health products. HIA’s members produce the vast majority of the hearing aids sold annually in the United States.

² See, e.g., Letter from Bryan N. Tramont and Robert G. Kirk, Counsel for AMIS, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, ET Docket No. 06-135 (Feb. 7, 2008) (“AMIS Ex Parte”).